(d) and (e) In view of the Government's principled stand indicated above, it would not behave the Government to act in dissonance with it's own stated position.

Discussion about PoWs with Pak President

4531. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have also discussed about Indian Prisoners of War imprisoned in Pakistan during talks held recently with Pakistan,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) by when, the Indian Prisoners of War are likely to be get released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) During the visit of Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf to India from 16 to 18 April, 2005, both Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Musharraf discussed the issue of prisoners and endorsed the decisions taken in the meeting of Foreign Secretaries of the two countries on 27-28 December, 2004, and the Foreign Ministers on 15-17 February, 2005, on the measures to be taken to alleviate the situation of prisoners in each other's countries.

According to available information, 54 Prisoners of War (PoWs) are believed to be in custody in Pakistan. However, Pakistan Government has consistently denied the existence of any Indian PoWs in Pakistan. Government, through diplomatic channels, have been consistently taking up the issue of early release of Indian PoWs believed to be in Pakisan's custody since 1971-72. The matter was also taken up during the meeting between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister of Pakistan on November 24, 2004